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United States of America

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
RUEBEN PAUL PHILL,  
  
Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:24-CR-00001-TLN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
ALEJANDRA SUSANA CASTILLO,  
  
Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:24-cr-0325-DC

**NOTICE OF RELATED CASES**

[EDCA L.R. 123]

TO THIS HONORABLE COURT AND ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF  
RECORD,

The United States of America, through its undersigned counsel, Assistant United States Attorney Adrian T. Kinsella, hereby gives notice that the above-captioned matters are related cases within the meaning of Local Rule 123. These cases involve the same parties and/or witnesses, are based on the same or similar facts, and reassignment to the same district judge would avoid substantial duplication of labor by the Court.

1 In *United States v. Phill*, Case No. 2:24-cr-00001-TLN, the defendant, Rueben Paul Phill, is  
 2 currently in custody for five charges that he violated his conditions of supervised release. ECF No. 3.  
 3 No district judge in this Court has yet seen defendant Phill because his case was recently transferred  
 4 from the District of Nevada. ECF No. 1. Charge 5 explicitly references a then-pending ATF  
 5 investigation into Phill and defendant Alejandra Susana Castillo's (Phill's fiancée) trafficking of  
 6 firearms between Nevada and California. Charges 1 through 4, which detail Phill's supervised release  
 7 offenses discovered during traffic stops in Nevada, are also related to this same firearm trafficking  
 8 activity because Phill was travelling to Nevada to purchase ammunition and to have Castillo (then a non-  
 9 prohibited person) purchase firearms on his behalf.

10 The United States has since extended pre-indictment plea offers to both Phill and Castillo for  
 11 their respective violations of 18 U.S.C. § 933(a)(1) – firearms trafficking. On December 20, 2024, after  
 12 accepting her plea offer, Castillo waived her right to an indictment and was arraigned on an  
 13 information.<sup>1</sup> *United States v. Alejandra Susana Castillo*, Case No. 2:24-cr-0325-DC, ECF No. 4. She  
 14 is currently scheduled to plead guilty on January 10, 2024, before District Judge Dena M. Coggins. *Id.*  
 15 At the arraignment, the United States notified the Court it intended to file the instant notice of related  
 16 cases, and that, should the Court relate the cases, the parties would reschedule the COP as necessary.

17 Pursuant to Local Rule 123, the cases involve the same parties, and the evidence of both  
 18 defendant's firearms trafficking is the same in both of the above-captioned cases. Further, reassignment  
 19 of the cases to the same district judge is "likely to effect a substantial savings of judicial effort" because  
 20 it will necessarily avoid the "substantial duplication of labor" by the judiciary of this district, including  
 21 any issues regarding discovery or admissibility of evidence and any questions of law that may arise  
 22 thereto. See EDCA L.R. 123(a)(3)-(4).

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27 <sup>1</sup> Defendant Phill has not yet accepted or rejected the United States' plea offer. The United  
 28 States will file a notice of related cases for any new substantive case against defendant Phill.

1 For the foregoing reasons, the United States believes that the above-captioned cases are related  
2 within the meaning of Local Rule 123. Consequently, the United States respectfully requests that the  
3 above captioned cases be reassigned to the same district judge in accordance with the provisions of the  
4 Local Rules of this district. Because defendant Phill has not yet appeared before Chief District Judge  
5 Troy L. Nunley for his Admit/Deny hearing, the United States believes it is appropriate to assign both  
6 cases to either Judge Nunley or Judge Coggins.

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8 Dated: December 27, 2024

PHILLIP A. TALBERT  
United States Attorney

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10 By: /s/ ADRIAN T. KINSELLA  
11 ADRIAN T. KINSELLA  
Assistant United States Attorney  
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